

KENJI OSE

PATENT

Application No.: 09/992,597

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Claims 34-37, 42-44 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mimura (US 4,065,983). Claims 34, 36, 37, 40 and 41 also were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mimura. These bases for rejection are respectfully traversed.

Claim 34 has been amended to clarify that a motion limiting structure is coupled to the base member and to the rotatable dial for limiting a range of rotation of the rotatable dial relative the base member to a predefined arc. Mimura neither discloses nor suggests such a motion limiting structure.

Claims 34, 48, 49, 56 and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawakami (US 5,601,001). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 34 and 56 have been amended to clarify that the rotatable dial is exposed to the outside. If Kawakami's takeup element (7) is interpreted to be a rotatable dial, then it is not exposed to the outside, and there is no reason to have it exposed to the outside where the inner wire (8a) of the control cable (8) would be subjected to contamination.

Claims 34, 44-52 and 56-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Huang, et al (US 5,588,331). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claims 34 and 56 have been amended to clarify that the rotatable dial is exposed to the outside. Huang, et al's rotary member (40) is enclosed within the fixing seat (20, Fig. 3) and cover (24) as shown in Fig. 2. Thus, Huang, et al neither discloses nor suggests the claimed subject matter.

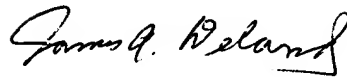
Claims 54 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mimura in view of White, et al (US 3,398,600). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above for the same reference.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 USC §102 and §102 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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VERSION OF AMENDMENTS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 34, 49 and 56 have been amended as follows:

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34. (Twice Amended) A bicycle shift control device comprising:
a base member;
a rotatable dial coupled to the base member for rotation around a rotational axis, wherein the rotatable dial is exposed to the outside;

a motion limiting structure coupled to the base member and to the rotatable dial that limits a range of rotation of the rotatable dial relative the base member to a predefined arc;

a finger contact projection extending from the rotatable dial in a direction of the rotational axis;

wherein the finger contact projection is structured to prohibit the extension of a finger between all portions of the finger contact projection and the rotatable dial; and

a shift element coupler disposed with the rotatable dial.

49. (Amended) The device according to claim [48] 34 wherein the motion limiting structure comprises a motion stop that cooperates with a first limit stop and a second limit stop.

56. (Amended) A bicycle shift control device for pulling and releasing a control cable wherein the device comprises:

a base member;

a rotatable dial coupled to the base member for rotation around a rotational axis, wherein the rotatable dial is exposed to the outside;

a finger contact projection extending from the rotatable dial in a direction of the rotational axis;

a motion limiting structure that limits a range of rotation of the rotatable dial relative the base member to a predefined arc, wherein the rotatable dial moves unobstructively within the predefined arc between a cable pulled position and a cable released position; and

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a shift element coupler disposed with the rotatable dial.

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